

# THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of the Eight Thousand Colored People in Omaha and Vicinity, and to the Good of the Community

The Rev. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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## The Color Question and a Millionaire

Mrs. Frank Leslie, Wife of the Publisher, Supposed to be Daughter of a Slave.

### DETECTIVES TRACE ANCESTRY

Facts Leak Out in Attempt to Set Aside Her Will. Lawful Wife. Money Her Own.

New York, Dec. 30.—The fact that the news has leaked out that the suit brought to set aside the will of the late Mrs. Frank Leslie, widow of the millionaire publisher, is based upon the allegation that she has Negro blood in her veins has created much surprise here. The fact was not known, as the case has been held in secret before Judge Fowler, but when William Nelson Cromwell and Louis H. Cramer filed an accounting the executors of the will let the cat out of the bag.

### Claim Mother a Slave.

The contention is that Mrs. Leslie's mother was a slave. Her father, it is also claimed, was a rich Southern planter. These claims result from the investigation carried out by the detectives hired by Mr. Westcott, who has been employed by the grandson, who is the main heir. The accounting refers to a payment of \$1,080 to the Schindler National Detective Agency for services in connection with the investigation of the family history of Mrs. Leslie. Another item is a payment of \$100 to an A. S. Wren for a trip to Charleston, S. C., for the same services.

### History Hard to Find.

The executors have learned that Mrs. Leslie was 78 years old and that she was born in New Orleans. As to the other facts the executors say that Mrs. Leslie's family is hard to trace. Concerning the suit to set aside the bulk of the \$1,800,000 which Mrs. Leslie left to suffrage, the executors said: "The general nature of the claim was that Mrs. Leslie was the illegitimate child of one Charles Follin and a slave, and that she left no heirs at law or next to kin on the part of her mother." According to the heirs on Frank Leslie's side the money should go to them, as the deceased got the money from her husband.

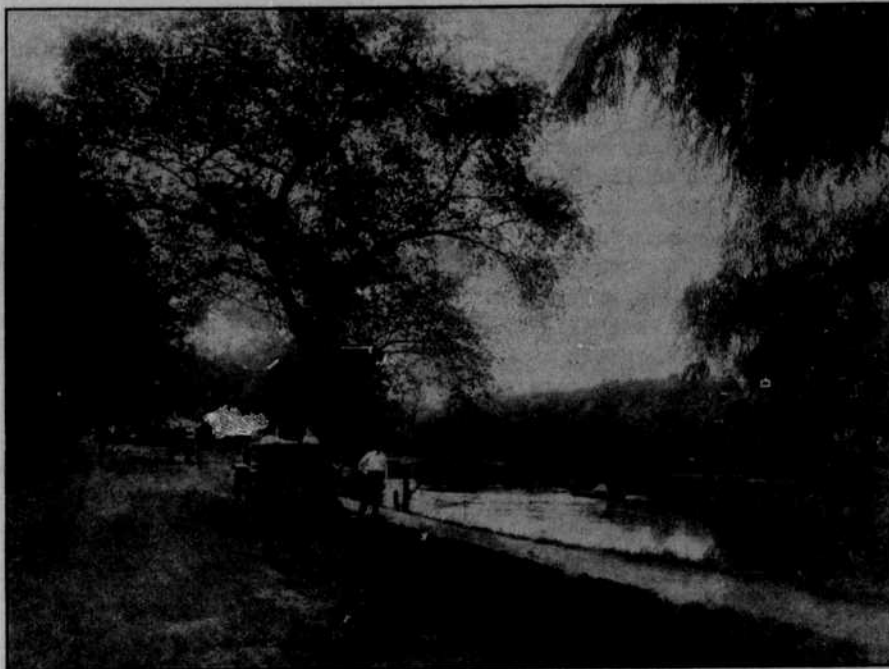
What difference does it make whether she was white, brown or blue? She was his wife and the money was hers to bequeath as she saw fit.

This case is interesting as showing that color and blood have subtle and far-reaching ramifications in many unsuspected quarters in American life.

### INSTRUCTOR OF PORTERS.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Mr. J. F. Smith, of 4764 Dearborn street, after thirty years of faithful service, has been appointed instructor of porters for the district of Chicago. Under his jurisdiction there are nearly 2,000 men.

## A Happy New Year



SCENE IN RIVERVIEW PARK

## Something To Make You Think

### STRANGER THAN FICTION.

(From Editorial in New York Age)

We reproduced the opinion from the Maine and Massachusetts papers only to throw into stronger relief the opinion from the Courier-Journal. Here is a writer calmly asserting that the slightest tinge of African blood is discernible, if not in the complexion, then in some trait or characteristic betraying inferiority. This is, of course, laughable. Seven-tenths of those who read these lines know of one or more persons of colored blood who are "passing."

But the cause of our digging through our files of clippings about "The Autobiography of an ex-Colored Man" was the recent news in the New York dailies concerning the sensational developments in the proceedings to break the will of Mrs. Frank Leslie, widow of Frank Leslie, the great magazine publisher, in which it was alleged that she was a daughter of Charles Follin of Louisiana, and that her mother was a Negro slave.

Mrs. Leslie was one of the remarkable women of this city. On the death of her husband, the various Leslie publications were in a precarious condition. She took them in hand and, by energy and intelligence, placed them on a paying basis. When she died she left an estate of almost two million dollars.

If Mrs. Leslie was a colored woman, and there are reasons to believe the allegation to be true—a large sum was spent by those who make the allegation in an investigation of Mrs. Leslie's history and pedigree; and in "Who's Who" no mention is made of Mrs. Leslie's mother—we say, if she was a colored woman, her case is stranger than any fiction.

### HORRIBLE THOUGHT.

(Editorial in Chicago Defender)

What can be the feelings of the aristocracy upon learning that they have wine, dined and taken to their bosom for many years one who in the final analysis is discovered to have a drop of dark blood coursing through their veins? How can they ease their conscience? Why was it not discernible in some manner? It could have been done if we are to believe the testimony of some noted experts along the analytical line.

It is said that one rotten apple in a barrel will spoil all the other apples, and to the prejudiced American mind, one drop of colored blood is sufficient to taint all of the rest in the body. At least if it is known it is sufficient to subject the owner to all the indignities heaped upon one more pronounced in

(Continued on third page)

## Improving New York Housing Conditions

Plan the Erection of Modern Tenements For Small Salaried Colored Tenants.

### URBAN LEAGUE IS INTERESTED

Will Conserve Integrity of Family Life Now Endangered by Surroundings.

New York, Dec. 30.—A movement to provide modern and up-to-date model tenements for colored people in New York is being planned by a group of organizations of the city, including representatives from the City and Suburban Homes Company, the National League on Urban conditions among Negroes and the Property Owners' Improvement Corporation. It is contemplated that these houses containing small apartments, will meet the needs of a larger number of small salaried people who are unable now to find suitable living apartments excepting large apartments in which they are compelled to take roomers to meet the high rents.

The committee from the various organizations which has been appointed to carry out this plan consists of Cyrus C. Miller, chairman of the executive committee of the Advisory Council; Allen Robinson, president of the City and Suburban Homes Company; L. Hollingsworth Wood, president of the National League on Urban Conditions among Negroes, and Frank W. Shaw, vice-president of the Property Owners' Improvement Corporation. The project embraces also the erection of hotels, the providing of which, it is hoped, will overcome certain bad conditions which now exist.

### Negro Tenants Pay Higher Rents.

Notwithstanding the claim that invasion of certain localities by Negroes has depreciated property values, the committee makes the declaration that it has discovered that owners of tenements are getting higher rents from Negro tenants than was received from white tenants in the same houses. The committee estimates also that 32 per cent. of the Negro population of the Harlem district consists of lodgers. This condition, it is claimed, forms a danger to the development of family life.

The model tenements contemplated will be under the supervision of the City and Suburban Homes Company, which has already built a number of model houses for Negroes, and lodging houses will be provided with reading and lounging rooms for the use of tenants. Co-operation is promised to a group of Negro business men who are contemplating the organization of a bank. It is proposed that the board of directors of the bank be composed of both white and colored men, and that the deposits be utilized in taking care of mortgages on properties owned or occupied by Negroes, thus preventing depreciation in values.